FINANCIAL REPORT WITH SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION

Year Ended March 31, 2006

AUDITING PRO								
issue under P.A. 2 of 1968 Local Government Type		Local Government	t Name			Cou	nty	
	☐ Village ☒ Other	Lockport, Fabiu	is, Park Tov	wnships Fire	Department	5	St. Joseph	<b>1</b>
Audit Date	Opinion Date	- <del></del>	Date Accou	ntant Report S	Submitted to Sta	te:		
March 31, 2006	June 30,		July 12					
We have audited the prepared in accordar Reporting Format for Department of Treas	nce with the Statem or Financial Stateme	ents of the Gove	ernmental /	Accounting :	Standards Bo	ard (0	3ASB) ar	nd the <i>Uniforn</i>
We affirm that:								
1. We have complied	d with the <i>Bulletin for</i>	r the Audits of Loc	cal Units of	Governmen	t in Michigan	as rev	rised.	
2. We are certified p	ublic accountants req	gistered to praction	ce in Michig	an.				
We further affirm the the report of commer			en disclose	ed in the fina	ancial stateme	ents, ir	ncluding t	the notes, or in
You must check the	applicable box for ea	ch item below.			. 1			
☐ yes ☒ no 1.	Certain component	units/funds/agend	cies of the I	ocal unit are	e excluded fro	m the	financial	statements.
☐ yes ☒ no 2.	There are accumulate earnings (P.A. 275 c		e or more o	of this unit's	unreserved fu	nd bal	lances/re	tained
☐ yes ☒ no 3.	There are instances 1968, as amended).		ce with the	Uniform Acc	counting and	Budge	eting Act (	P.A. 2 of
☐ yes ☒ no 4.		The local unit has violated the conditions of either an order issued under the Municipal Finance Act or its requirements, or an order issued under the Emergency Municipal Loan Act.						
☐ yes ☒ no 5.	The local unit holds deposits/investments which do not comply with statutory requirements. (P.A. 20 of 1943, as amended [MCL 129.91], or P.A. 55 of 1982, as amended [MCL 38.1132]).							
☐ yes ☒ no 6.	The local unit has been delinquent distributing tax revenues that were collected for another taxing unit.							
yes Ino 7. The local unit has violated the Constitutional requirement (Article 9, Section 24) to fund current year earned pension benefits (normal costs) in the current year. If the plan is more than 100% funded and the overfunding credits are more than the normal cost requirement, no contributions are due (paid during they year).								
☐ yes ☒ no 8.	The local unit uses credit cards and has not adopted an applicable policy as required by P.A. 266 of 1995 (MCL 129.241).							
☐ yes ☒ no 9. The local unit has not adopted an investment policy as required by P.A. 196 of 1997 (MCL 129.95).								
We have enclosed the following:					Enclosed		o Be warded	Not Required
The letter of comme	ents and recommenda	ations.			X			
Reports on individual federal financial assistance programs (program audits).					Х			
Single Audit Reports (ASLGU).				Х				
Certified Public Account								
Street Address	uite 100, P.O. Box 68	 36		City Bay City		ate MI	Zip 4870	17
Accountant Signature L.CO., P.C.								
	<del>-</del>	, .						

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### CAMPBELL, KUSTERER & CO., P.C.

CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS

MARK J. CAMPBELL, CPA KENNETH P. KUSTERER, CPA

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TEL (989) 894-1040 FAX (989) 894-5494

**INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT** 

June 30, 2006

To the Fire Board Lockport, Fabius, Park Townships Fire Department St. Joseph County, Michigan

We have audited the accompanying financial statements of the governmental activities and each major fund of Lockport, Fabius, Park Townships Fire Department, St. Joseph County, Michigan as of and for the year ended March 31, 2006, which collectively comprise the Fire Department's basic financial statements as listed in the table of contents. These financial statements are the responsibility of Lockport, Fabius, Park Townships Fire Department's management. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements based on our audit.

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. An audit also includes assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. We believe that our audit provides a reasonable basis for our opinion.

In our opinion, the financial statements referred to above present fairly, in all material respects, the respective financial position of the governmental activities and each major fund of the Lockport, Fabius, Park Townships Fire Department, St. Joseph County, Michigan as of March 31, 2006, and the respective changes in financial position thereof, for the year then ended in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

The Management's Discussion and Analysis and budgetary comparison information listed in the table of contents are not a required part of the basic financial statements but are supplementary information required by accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. We have applied certain limited procedures, which consisted principally of inquiries of management, regarding the methods of measurement and presentation of the required supplementary information. However, we did not audit the information and express no opinion on it.

CAMPBELL, KUSTERER & CO., P.C.

Certified Public Accountants

#### MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

For the year ended March 31, 2006

The Management's Discussion and Analysis report of the Lockport, Fabius, Park Townships Fire Department covers the Fire Department's financial performance during the year ended March 31, 2006.

#### FINANCIAL HIGHLIGHTS

Our financial status remained stable over the last year. Net assets at March 31, 2006, totaled \$728,773.20. Total revenues were \$224,095.94. The net decrease in net assets of \$44,611.69 included a \$87,271.98 depreciation deduction. We did not incur any new debt.

#### **OVERVIEW OF FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

This annual report consists of three parts, management's discussion and analysis, the basic financial statements and required supplementary information. The basic financial statements include two different kinds of statements that present different views of the Fire Department and the notes to the financial statements.

The first two statements are entity-wide financial statements and provide both long and short-term information about our overall financial status. The notes to the financial statements explain some of the information in the statements and provide more detailed data.

Required supplementary information further explains and supports the financial statement information with budgetary comparisons.

The notes to the financial statements explain some of the information in the statements and provide more detailed data.

Required supplementary information further explains and supports the financial statement information with budgetary comparisons.

### **ENTITY-WIDE FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

The entity-wide statements report information about the Fire Department as a whole using accounting methods used by private companies. The statement of net assets includes all of the Fire Department's assets and liabilities. The statement of activities records all of the current year revenues and expenses regardless of when received or paid.

The two entity-wide statements report net assets and how they have changed. Net assets are the difference between the entity's assets and liabilities and this is one method to measure the entity's financial health or position.

Over time increases/decreases in the Fire Department's net assets are an indicator of whether financial position is improving or deteriorating.

To assess overall health of the entity you may also have to consider additional factors such as the financial strength of Lockport, Fabius and Park Townships, the Fire Department's facility conditions and personnel changes.

#### **FUND FINANCIAL STATEMENTS**

There are no fund financial statements as the Fire Department has only one fund.

#### MANAGEMENT'S DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

For the year ended March 31, 2006

#### FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT AS A WHOLE

During the year, the department maintained the station building and equipment we have. We purchased new equipment totaling \$26,932.42, some of which was to replace worn out equipment, and paid \$2,450.00 for an engineering study for a new station. The Fire Department received a \$12,000.00 restricted contribution from a married couple for the purchase of part of the equipment. We did not purchase any fire trucks. With the engineering study, the board continued its discussions of building a new station. At the annual meeting in April 2006, a building project committee was appointed to further explore our options.

#### FINANCIAL ANALYSIS OF THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S FUNDS

The Fire Department has only one fund. Please refer to the financial highlights section of this report for summary information or refer to the financial statement for more detailed information about the financial position and results of operations of our department.

#### CAPITAL ASSET AND LONG-TERM DEBT ACTIVITY

The Fire Department invested \$29,382.42 in capital assets in the current fiscal year.

### KNOWN FACTORS AFFECTING FUTURE OPERATIONS

Future funding of the Fire Department is dependent on the financial support from and the financial stability of Lockport, Fabius and Park Townships.

### **CONTACTING THE FIRE DEPARTMENT'S MANAGEMENT**

This financial report is designed to provide our investors and customers with a general overview of the Fire Department's finances and to demonstrate the Fire Department's accountability for the revenues it receives. If you have any questions concerning this report, please contact one of the Fire Department's board members.

David Brueck, President	(269) 467-7176
Paul Bungart, Treasurer	(269) 467-7637
Ronald Carpenter, Trustee	(269) 279-5953
Patricia Burke, Secretary	(269) 279-7402

#### **GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS** March 31, 2006

ACCETO	Governmental Activities
ASSETS:	
CURRENT ASSETS: Cash in bank	
Accounts receivable	54 524 94
	3 000 00
Prepaid expenses	11 080 09
Total Current Assets	68 605 03
NON-CURRENT ASSETS:	
Capital Assets	1 466 463 27
Less: Accumulated Depreciation	(778 069 92)
	(110 009 92)
Total Non-current Assets	688 393 35
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>756 998 38</u>
LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS:	
LIABILITIES:	
CURRENT LIABILITIES:	
Accounts payable	20.005.40
	<u>28 225 18</u>
Total Current Liabilities	28 225 18
NON OURRENT HARM THE	
NON-CURRENT LIABILITIES	
Total Non-current Liabilities	
Takal Habine	
Total Liabilities	<u>28 225 18</u>
NET ASSETS:	
Invested in Capital Assets, Net of Related Debt	688 393 35
Unrestricted	40 379 85
Total Net Assets	10 07 00
Lorgi Mer Vasera	728 773 20
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	756 000 00
<del>-</del>	<u>756 998 38</u>

#### **GOVERNMENT-WIDE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES** Year ended March 31, 2006

		Prog Reve	Governmental Activities	
FUNCTIONS/PROGRAMS Governmental Activities:	Expenses	Charges for Services	Capital Grants - Contributions	Net (Expense) Revenue and Changes in Net Assets
Public safety	268 707 63	211 750 00	12 000 00	(44 957 63)
Total Governmental Activities	<u>268 707 63</u>	211 750 00	12 000 00	(44 957 63)
General Revenues: Interest Miscellaneous				333 94 12 00
Total General Revenues				345 94
Change in net assets				(44 611 69)
Net assets, beginning of year				773 384 89
Net Assets, End of Year				728 773 20

#### BALANCE SHEET – GOVERNMENTAL FUND March 31, 2006

<u>Assets</u>	Total (General)
Cash in bank Accounts receivable Prepaid expenses	54 524 94 3 000 00 11 080 09
Total Assets	68 605 03
Liabilities and Fund Equity	
Liabilities:     Accounts payable Total liabilities  Fund equity:	28 225 18 28 225 18
Fund balance: Unreserved: Undesignated Total fund equity	40 379 85 40 379 85
Total Liabilities and Fund Equity	68 605 03

# RECONCILIATION OF BALANCE SHEET OF GOVERNMENTAL FUND TO THE STATEMENT OF NET ASSETS March 31, 2006

#### TOTAL FUND BALANCES - GOVERNMENTAL FUNDS

40 379 85

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the statement of net assets are different because –

Capital assets used in governmental activities are not financial resources and therefore are not reported in the governmental funds balance sheet:

Capital assets at cost Accumulated depreciation

1 466 463 27 (778 069 92)

TOTAL NET ASSETS - GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

728 773 20

#### STATEMENT OF REVENUES, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCE -**GOVERNMENTAL FUND** Year ended March 31, 2006

Revenues:	Total (General)
Charges for services – fire protection:  Lockport Township	
Fabius Township	71 250 00
Park Township	65 250 00
Flowerfield Township	63 250 00
Interest	12 000 00
Miscellaneous	333 94
Modelianeous	12 012 00
Total revenues	224 095 94
Expenditures:	
Public safety:	
Fire protection:	
Salaries, wages and payroll taxes	
Supplies	76 713 60
Gas and oil	3 776 75
Telephone	5 635 88
Insurance	2 970 18
Utilities	36 197 29
Parts and maintenance	5 395 43
Audit and legal	20 841 79
Training	15 722 50
Buildings and grounds	300 00
Miscellaneous	2 804 86
Capital outlay	11 077 37
	<u>29 382 42</u>
Total expenditures	210 818 07
Excess (deficiency) of revenues over expenditures	13 277 87
Fund balance, April 1	13277 07
Tana balance, April 1	27 101 98
Fund Balance, March 31	40.070.05
	40 379 85

# RECONCILIATION OF THE STATEMENT OF REVENUE, EXPENDITURES AND CHANGES IN FUND BALANCES OF GOVERNMENTAL FUND TO THE STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES Year ended March 31, 2006

#### NET CHANGE IN FUND BALANCE - TOTAL GOVERNMENTAL FUND

13 277 87

Amounts reported for governmental activities in the Statement of Activities are different because:

Governmental funds report capital outlays as expenditures; in the Statement of Activities, these costs are allocated over their estimated useful lives as depreciation

Depreciation Expense Capital Outlay

(87 271 98)

29 382 42

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS OF GOVERNMENTAL ACTIVITIES

(44 611 69)

#### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS March 31, 2006

### Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

The accounting policies of the Lockport, Fabius, Park Townships Fire Department, St. Joseph County, Michigan, conform to generally accepted accounting principles as applicable to governmental units.

#### Reporting Entity

The financial statements of the Fire Department contain all the Fire Department funds that are controlled by or dependent on the Fire Department's executive or legislative branches.

The reporting entity is the Lockport, Fabius, Park Township's Fire Department. The Fire Department is governed by an elected Fire Board. As required by generally accepted accounting principles, these financial statements present the Fire Department as the primary government.

### Government-Wide and Fund Financial Statements

The government-wide financial statements, (the Statement of Net Assets and the Statement of Changes in Net Assets) report information on all of the non-fiduciary activities of the primary government. For the most part, the effect of interfund activity has been removed from these statements. Governmental activities, normally supported by taxes and intergovernmental revenues, are reported separately from business-type activities, which rely to a significant extent on fees and charges for support. All the Fire Department's government-wide activities are considered governmental activities.

The Statement of Activities demonstrates the degree to which the direct expenses of a given function are offset by program revenues. Direct expenses are those that are clearly identifiable with a specific function. Program revenues include: (1) charges to customers or applicants who purchase, use or directly benefit from goods, services or privileges provided by a given function; and (2) grants and contributions that are restricted to meeting the operational or capital requirements of a particular function. Taxes, intergovernmental payments and other items not properly included among program revenues are reported as general revenue.

Major individual governmental funds are reported as separate columns in the fund financial statements.

# Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation

The government-wide financial statements are reported using the economic resources measurement focus and the accrual basis of accounting. Revenue is recorded when earned and expenses are recorded when a liability is incurred, regardless of the timing of related cash flows. Property taxes are recognized as revenue in the year for which they are levied. Grants and similar items are recognized as revenue as soon as all eligibility requirements imposed by the provider have been met. When an expense is incurred for purposes for which both restricted and unrestricted net assets are available, restricted resources are

Governmental fund financial statements are reported using the current financial resources measurement focus and the modified accrual basis of accounting. Revenue is recognized as soon as it is both measurable and available. Revenue is considered to be available if it is collected within the current period or soon enough thereafter to pay liabilities of the current period. For this purpose, the government considers revenues to be available if they are collected within 60 days of the end of the current fiscal period. Expenditures generally are recorded when a liability is incurred, as under accrual accounting. However, expenditures relating to compensated absences, and claims and judgments are recorded only when payment is due.

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS March 31, 2006

#### Note 1 - Summary of Significant Accounting Policies (continued)

Measurement Focus, Basis of Accounting and Financial Statement Presentation (continued)

The Fire Department reports only one fund as follows:

 The General Fund is used to record the operations of the Fire Department which pertain to maintaining and operating the Fire Department. Included are all transactions related to the approved current operating budget.

#### Assets, Liabilities and Net Assets or Equity

Bank deposits and investments – Cash and cash equivalent investments include cash on hand, demand deposits, certificates of deposit and short-term investments with a maturity of three months or less when acquired. Investments are stated at fair value.

#### Receivables

Receivables have been recognized for all significant amounts due to the Fire Department. Allowances for uncollectible accounts have not been provided for in that collection is not considered doubtful and any uncollected amount would be immaterial.

#### **Inventories**

Inventories of supplies are considered to be immaterial and are not recorded.

#### **Property Taxes**

The Fire Department does not levy any property taxes.

#### **Encumbrances**

Encumbrances involving the current recognition of purchase orders, contracts and other commitments for future expenditures are not recorded.

#### Capital Assets

Capital assets are defined by the Fire Department as assets with an initial cost of more than \$150.00 and an estimated useful life in excess of one year. Such assets are recorded at historical cost or estimated historical cost. Donated assets are reported at estimated fair market value at the date of donation. Additions, improvements and other capital outlays that significantly extend the useful life of an asset are capitalized. Other costs incurred for repairs and maintenance are expensed as incurred. Depreciation on all assets is provided on the straight-line basis over the following estimated useful lives:

Buildings and improvements Vehicles and equipment

7-39 years 5-15 years

#### Compensated Absences (Vacation and Sick Leave)

Employees are not allowed to accumulate vacation and sick pay.

#### Post-employment Benefits

The Fire Department provides no post-employment benefits to past employees.

### NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS March 31, 2006

#### Note 1 – <u>Summary of Significant Accounting Policies</u> (continued)

#### **Fund Equity**

In the fund financial statements, governmental funds report reservations of fund balance for amounts that are not available for appropriation or are legally restricted by outside parties for use for a specific purpose. Designations of fund balance represent tentative management plans that are subject to change.

#### Note 2 – <u>Budgets and Budgetary Accounting</u>

The following procedures are followed in establishing the budgetary data reflected in these financial statements:

- 1. Prior to the beginning of the fiscal year, the proposed budget for each budgetary fund is submitted to the Fire Board for consideration.
- The proposed budgets include expenditures as well as the methods of financing them.
- 3. Public hearings are held to obtain taxpayer comments.
- 4. The budgets are adopted at the activity level by a majority vote of the Fire Board.
- 5. The budgets are adopted on the modified accrual basis of accounting.
- 6. The originally adopted budgets can be amended during the year only by a majority vote of the Fire Board.
- 7. The adopted budgets are used as a management control device during the year for all budgetary funds.
- 8. Budget appropriations lapse at the end of each fiscal year.
- The budgeted amounts shown in these financial statements are the originally adopted budgets with all amendments that were approved by the Fire Board during the fiscal year.

#### Note 3 - Deposits and Investments

Michigan Compiled Laws, Section 129.91, authorizes the Fire Department to deposit and invest in the accounts of federally insured banks, credit unions, and savings and loan associations; bonds, securities and other direct obligations of the United States, or any agency or instrumentality of the United States; United States government or federal agency obligation repurchase agreements; banker's acceptance of United States banks; commercial paper rated within the two highest classifications, which mature not more than 270 days after the date purchase; obligations of the State of Michigan or its political subdivisions which are rated as investment grade; and mutual funds composed of investment vehicles which are legal for direct investment by local units of government in Michigan. Financial institutions eligible for deposit of public funds must maintain an office in Michigan.

The Fire Board has designated two banks for the deposit of Fire Department funds. The investment policy adopted by the board in accordance with Public Act 196 of 1997 has authorized investment in all investments authorized by state law as listed above.

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS March 31, 2006

#### Note 3 – Deposits and Investments (continued)

The Fire Department's deposits and investments are in accordance with statutory authority.

The Governmental Accounting Standards Board Statement No. 3, risk disclosures for the cash deposits are as follows:

Carrying
Amounts
54 524 94

**Total Deposits** 

Amounts in the bank balances are without considering deposits in transit or uncleared checks.

Insured (FDIC)
Uninsured and Uncollateralized

Total Deposits

Bank
Balances

55 364 46

55 364 46

The Lockport, Fabius, Park Townships Fire Department did not have any investments as of March 31, 2006.

#### Note 4 - Capital Assets

Capital asset activity of the Fire Department's Governmental activities for the current year was as follows:

Governmental Activities:	Balance 4/1/05	Additions	<u>Deletions</u>	Balance 3/31/06
Buildings and improvements Vehicles and equipment	222 573 70 1 214 507 15	2 450 00 26 932 42		225 023 70 1 241 439 57
Total	1 437 080 85	29 382 42	-	1 466 463 27
Accumulated Depreciation _	(690 797 94)	(87 271 98)		(778 069 92)
Net Capital Assets	746 282 91	(57 889 56)	_	688 393 35

#### Note 5 - Deferred Compensation Plan

The Fire Department does not have a deferred compensation plan.

## NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS March 31, 2006

#### Note 6 - Risk Management

The Fire Department is exposed to various risks of loss related to property loss, torts, errors, omissions, and employee injuries (workers' compensation). The Fire Department has purchased commercial insurance for property loss, torts and workers' compensation claims. Settled claims relating to the commercial insurance have not exceeded the amount of insurance coverage in any of the past three fiscal years.

#### Note 7 - Pension Plan

The Fire Department does not have a pension plan.

#### BUDGETARY COMPARISON SCHEDULE - GENERAL FUND Year ended March 31, 2006

Revenues:	Original Budget	Final Budget	Actual	Variance with Final Budget Over (Under)
Charges for services – fire prote	otion:			
Lockport Township	68 170 00	81 200 00	71 250 00	(9 950 00)
Fabius Township	65 170 00	74 200 00	65 250 00	(8 950 00)
Park Township	66 170 00	73 200 00	63 250 00	(9 950 00)
Flowerfield Township	00 170 00		12 000 00	12 000 00
Interest	300 00	- 310 00	333 94	23 94
Miscellaneous	12 200 00			
Miscellarieous	12 200 00	12 002 00	12 012 00	10 00
Total revenues	212 010 00	240 912 00	224 095 94	(16 816 06)
Expenditures:				
Public safety:				
Fire protection:				
Salaries, wages and				
payroll taxes	64 700 00	76 000 00	76 713 60	713 60
Supplies	4 700 00	3 775 00	3 776 75	1 75
Gas and oil	4 700 00	6 000 00	5 635 88	(364 12)
Telephone	3 500 00	3 500 00	2 970 18	(529 82)
Insurance	40 250 00	40 250 00	36 197 29	(4 052 71)
Utilities	5 600 00	5 600 00	5 395 43	(204 57)
Parts and maintenance	21 900 00	27 400 00	20 841 79	(6 558 21)
Audit and legal	15 800 00	17 800 00	15 722 50	(2 077 50)
Training	3 000 00	1 000 00	300 00	(700 00)
Buildings and grounds	4 700 00	3 135 00	2 804 86	(330 14)
Miscellaneous	11 820 00	11 420 00	11 077 37	(342 63)
Capital outlay	46 940 00	45 032 00	29 382 42	(15 649 58)
Total expenditures	227 610 00	240 912 00	210 818 07	(30 093 93)
Excess (deficiency) of revenues				
over expenditures	(15 600 00)	-	13 277 87	13 277 87
Fund balance, April 1	15 600 00	15 600 00	27 101 98	11 501 98
Fund Balance, March 31	_	<u>15 600 00</u>	40 379 85	24 779 85

### CAMPBELL, KUSTERER & CO., P.C.

#### **CERTIFIED PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS**

MARK J. CAMPBELL, CPA KENNETH P. KUSTERER, CPA 512 N. LINCOLN AVE. - SUITE 100 PO. BOX 686 BAY CITY, MICHIGAN 48707 TEL (989) 894-1040 FAX (989) 894-5494

# AUDIT COMMUNICATION AND REPORT OF COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

June 30, 2006

To the Fire Board Lockport, Fabius, Park Township's Fire Department St. Joseph County, Michigan

We have audited the financial statements of the Lockport, Fabius, Park Township's Fire Department for the year ended March 31, 2006. As required by auditing standards generally accepted in the United States, the independent auditor is required to make several communications to the governing body having oversight responsibility for the audit. The purpose of this communication is to provide you with additional information regarding the scope and results of our audit that may assist you with your oversight responsibilities of the financial reporting process for which management is responsible.

## <u>AUDITOR'S RESPONSIBILITY UNDER AUDITING STANDARDS GENERALLY ACCEPTED IN THE UNITED STATES</u>

We conducted our audit of the financial statements of the Lockport, Fabius, Park Township's Fire Department in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States. The following paragraph explains our responsibilities under those standards.

Management has the responsibility for adopting sound accounting policies, for maintaining an adequate and effective system of accounts, for the safeguarding of assets, and for devising an internal control structure that will, among other things, help assure the proper recording of transactions. The transactions that should be reflected in the accounts and in the financial statements are matters within the direct knowledge and control of management. Our knowledge of such transactions is limited to that acquired through our audit. Accordingly, the fairness of representations made through the financial statements is an implicit and integral part of management's accounts and records. However, our responsibility for the financial statements is confined to the expression of an opinion on them. The financial statements remain the responsibility of management.

The concept of materiality is inherent in the work of an independent auditor. An auditor places greater emphasis on those items that have, on a relative basis, more importance to the financial statements and greater possibilities of material error than those items of lesser importance or those in which the possibility of material error is remote.

For this purpose, materiality has been defined as "the magnitude of an omission or misstatement of accounting information that, in light of surrounding circumstances, makes it probable that the judgment of a reasonable person relying on the information would have been changed or influenced by the omission or misstatement."

An independent auditor's objective in an audit is to obtain sufficient competent evidential matter to provide a reasonable basis for forming an opinion on the financial statements. In doing so, the auditor must work within economic limits; the opinion, to be economically useful, must be formed within a reasonable length of time and at reasonable cost. That is why an auditor's work is based on selected tests rather than an attempt to verify all transactions. Since evidence is examined on a test basis only, an audit provides only reasonable assurance, rather than absolute assurance, that financial statements are free of material misstatement. Thus, there is a risk that audited financial statements may contain undiscovered material errors or fraud. The existence of that risk is implicit in the phrase in the audit report, "in our opinion."

To the Fire Board Lockport, Fabius, Park Township's Fire Department St. Joseph County, Michigan

In the audit process, we gain an understanding of the internal control structure of an entity for the purpose of assisting in determining the nature, timing, and extent of audit testing. Our understanding is obtained by inquiry of management, testing transactions, and observation and review of documents and records. The amount of work done is not sufficient to provide a basis for an opinion on the adequacy of the internal control structure.

### SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The significant accounting policies are described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

#### **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS**

Auditing standards call for us to inform you of other significant issues such as, but not limited to, 1) Accounting estimates that are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements or because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ markedly from management's current judgments; 2) Significant audit adjustments that may not have been detected except through the auditing procedures we performed; 3) Disagreements with management regarding the scope of the audit or application of accounting principles; 4) Consultation with other accountants; 5) Major issues discussed with management prior to retention; and 6) Difficulties encountered in performing the audit.

We have no significant issues, regarding these matters, to report to you at this time. Audit adjustments were minimal, and are available to review.

# COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATION REGARDING INTERNAL CONTROLS/ COMPLIANCE/ EFFICIENCY

Our procedures disclosed no conditions that we would like to bring to your attention.

mobel, husterer & CO., P.C.

These conditions were considered in determining the nature, timing and extent of the audit tests to be applied in our audit of the Fire Department's financial statements and this communication of these matters does not affect our report on the Fire Department's financial statements, dated March 31, 2006.

#### SUMMARY

We welcome any questions you may have regarding the foregoing comments and we would be happy to discuss any of these or other questions that you might have at your convenience.

Sincerely,

CAMPBELL, KUSTERER & CO., P.C.

Certified Public Accountants